



TOWN OF SYLVA BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 08, 2026, at 5:30 PM

Board Room, 83 Allen Street Sylva, North Carolina

MINUTES

PRESENT: Perry Matthews, Commissioner
Samuel McGuire, Commissioner
Johnny Phillips, Mayor
Joseph Waldrum, Commissioner
Blitz Estridge, Commissioner

Paige Dowling, Town Manager
Angela Stanley, Town Clerk
Eric Ridenour, Town Attorney

ABSENT: Brad Waldrop, Mayor Pro Tem

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: None.

VISITORS: None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Matthews made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion about a commissioner's leave of absence. The motion carried with a unanimous vote. Commissioner McGuire made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Waldrum made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT: None.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner McGuire thanked everyone who participated in Hands On Jackson. He also reminded the public about Cleaning Up The Mountains scheduled for October 17, 2026, through October 24, 2026. Commissioner Waldrum stated that several members of the community expressed their appreciation to the Public Works Department for their road patching work. He also noted that he attended the City Forum to meet candidates that are running for public office. Commissioner Estridge noted that early voting starts October 15, 2026, and he has been encouraging people to vote. Commissioner Matthews mentioned some volunteer opportunities for events that are coming up and can be found on the Main Street Sylva Association's website.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Manager Dowling reported the following:

- Employment Updates:
 - Open positions- Detective with Sylva Police Department, Maintenance Technician with Public Works and Finance Director with Administration. Listings are on the Town of Sylva's website.

- Manager Dowling and Jake Scott met with Wurster Construction Inc. for a scoping meeting, to discuss the Ridgeway Street slope stabilization. Their target start date is the beginning of December and will be a five-week construction process.
- Frontier is phasing out their copper phone lines. The phone systems at Town Hall and the Fire Department will need to be replaced this fiscal year. Dowling had hoped to do this in next year's budget, but that will not be feasible. The phones at the Police Department are also at the end of their life cycle, therefore it makes sense to do this all at once.

NEW BUSINESS:

SYLVA HEALTH AND FITNESS: Sylva Health and Fitness is located on Asheville Highway. For sidewalk compliance, John Jelenewski, Zoning Administrator, recommends an alternate location. The recommendation is to place the sidewalk along the north side of Hospital Road and to terminate it in the first driveway entrance on an adjoining parcel at the hospital. The Sylva Health and Fitness parcel already has connectivity. There would be a crosswalk installed to get across Highway 23 to Hospital Road. The Planning Board voted September 24, 2026, to recommend the alternate location for the Sylva Health and Fitness sidewalk. The North Carolina Department of Transportation supports and would be responsible for the crosswalk. *Commissioner Waldrum made a motion to approve. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

RESOLUTION TO ENTER A CONTRACT WITH YRU CONTRACTING INC.: This resolution authorizes Paige R. Dowling, Town Manager, to sign a contract with YRU Contracting, Inc. for the Pinnacle Park work for the PARTF grant. The Contract amount is \$682,646.00 and will be funded in half by the PARTF grant and the TDA. *Commissioner McGuire made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

COMMISSIONER LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Mayor Phillips addressed the board regarding Commissioner Waldrop's request for a six-month leave of absence while both of his parents are going through serious health issues. NCGS 128-41 allows the granting of a leave of absence for a member based on protracted illness or other satisfactory reasons. *Commissioner McGuire made a motion to approve. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner McGuire made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.*

Johnny Phillips
Mayor

Angela D. Stanley
Town Clerk